

PROPOSED SOUTH FOX ISLAND LAND OWNERSHIP CONSOLIDATION

South Fox Island is located in Lake Michigan, 30 miles west of Charlevoix. It is situated between the Manitou Islands on the south and Beaver Island on the north. South Fox is approximately 3,400 acres in size and has 11.4 miles of shoreline. The ownership pattern is broken with the State of Michigan owning 36% of the island and one private owner holding the remaining 64% of the island. The State ownership is scattered with one 160-acre land locked parcel that cannot be accessed by the public. Access to the island by the public is by boat. An airstrip on the private land provides small plane access to the private ownership.

The State of Michigan has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to transfer their interest in lands on South Fox Island for consolidated ownership on the northern portion of the island. The proposed land exchange would:

- Consolidate the majority of State ownership on the northern third of the island.
- Retain the lighthouse and gravesite on the southern end of the island in State ownership (10 acres).
- Ensure that the cemetery in the northern third of the island is located on publicly owned property and is accessible to the public.
- Place a Conservation Easement and Plover Protection Plan on proposed private lands on the southern portion of the island. The Conservation Easement would:
 - ✓ Prohibit development and construction of structures with the exception of fences and temporary seasonal structures, such as blinds.
 - ✓ Prohibit filling, excavating, dredging, mining, and removal of soil, developing roads or altering topography or otherwise developing the property without written approval from the State of Michigan.
 - ✓ The proposed language would not prohibit the landowner from maintaining existing trails.
 - ✓ The Piping Plover Protection Plan would limit human activity in the conservation easement during critical periods while plovers are present. The proposed protection plan would also allow State and Federal agencies to monitor piping plovers.

The following is a summary of the ownership information on this proposal:

CURRENT OWNERSHIP (ACRES)	
Publicly Owned	
State owned with National Park Service Interest	121
State owned with Pittman Robertson Interest	681
State Owned with no Federal Interest	449
Total State Owned Land	1251
Privately Owned	
Privately Owned with no conservation easement	2180
Privately Owned with conservation easement	0
Total Privately Owned Land	2180

PROPOSED OWNERSHIP (ACRES)	
Publicly Owned	
State owned with National Park Service Interest	141
State owned with Pittman Robertson Interest	733
State Owned with no Federal Interest	390
Total State Owned Land	1264
Privately Owned	
Privately Owned with no conservation easement	2120
Privately Owned with conservation easement	47
Total Privately Owned Land	2167

CURRENT PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF LAKE FRONT (LINEAR FEET)	
Publicly Owned	
State owned with National Park Service Interest	8000
State owned with Pittman Robertson Interest	2225
State Owned with no Federal Interest	21075
Total State Owned Lake Frontage	31300
Privately owned with publicly owned conservation easement	0

PROPOSED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF LAKE FRONT (LINEAR FEET)	
Publicly Owned	
State owned with National Park Service Interest	9100
State owned with Pittman Robertson Interest	140
State Owned with no Federal Interest	16475
Total State Owned Lake Frontage	25715
Privately owned with publicly owned conservation easement	3500

The proposed boundary lines on the island are subject to change as a result of the Environmental Impact Statement process, the survey of current and proposed property lines, the land appraisals to establish fair market value, and the analysis of equivalent wildlife restoration and recreational values. The acreage and frontage data were estimated using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It must be noted that the lake level is currently low and the current frontage as reflected in the GIS estimations will likely prove greater than the original Government Lot sizes reflected in the deeds.

Figure 1 depicts the current land ownership and proposed land exchange. The publicly owned parcels are colored coded by acquisition method.

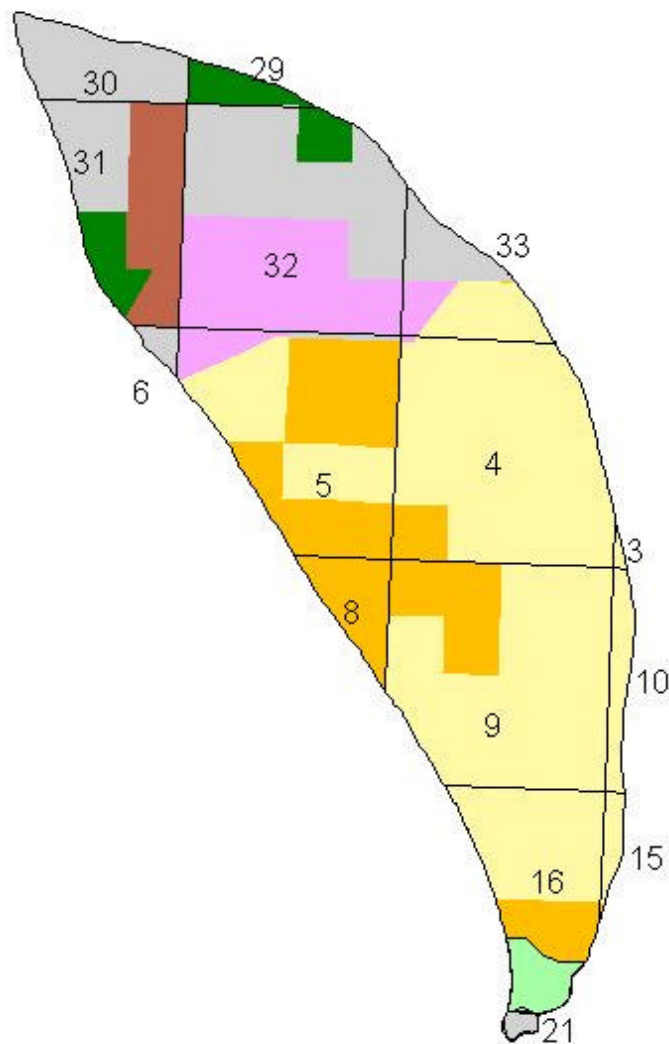
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service have mutually agreed to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed exchange. Public comments are sought on this proposal. Comments should be submitted in writing to Mr. Craig Czarnecki, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing Field Office, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48823 or fw3foxisland@fws.gov by **July 15, 2001**.

Figure 1.

South Fox Island

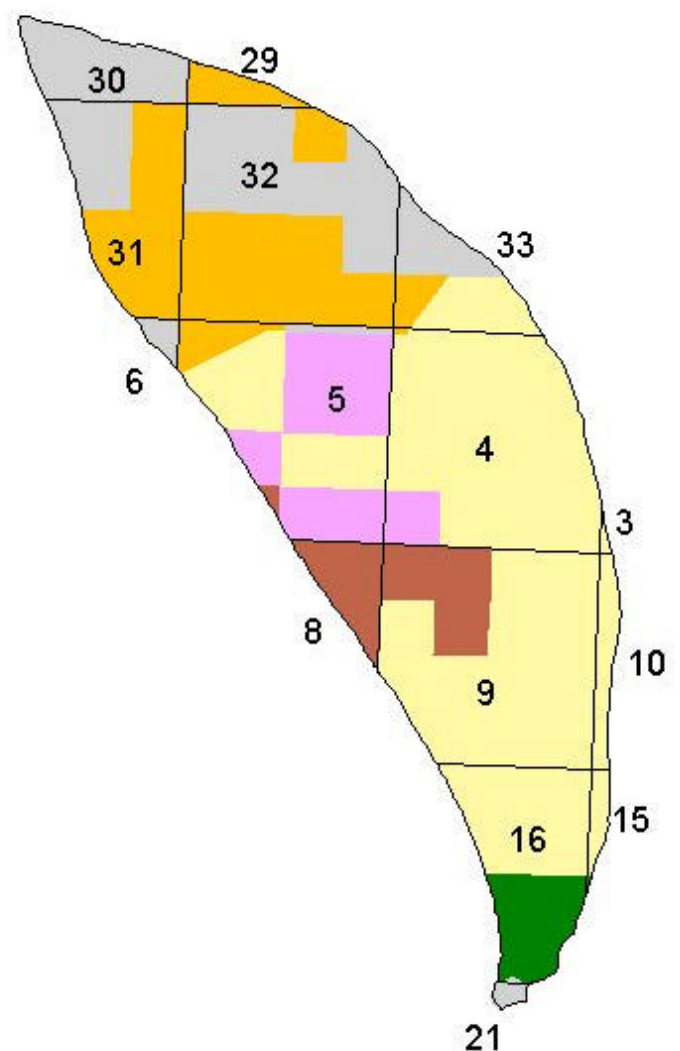
Proposed Ownership

Proposed Replacement
Parcels Identified
by Proposed
State/Federal Interest



Current Ownership

Identified by Current
Ownership and State
Acquisition Method



- State Land Proposed for Exchange to Private Owner
- NPS Proposed Replacement Land
- PR Proposed Replacement Land
- Other Proposed Replacement Land
- State Land not Proposed for Exchange
- Private Land not Proposed for Exchange
- Private Land with Conservation Easement Retained by the State

- Private Land Proposed for Exchange
- NPS Gifted Land Proposed for Exchange
- PR Acquired Land Proposed for Exchange
- Other State Land Proposed for Exchange
- State Land not Proposed for Exchange
- Private Land not Proposed for Exchange